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A COMPENDIOUS VIEW OF THE PRINCIPAL TRUTHS OF THE GLORIOUS GOSPEL OF CHRIST.

For the Use of YOUTH.

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SALISBURY:
PRINTED FOR H. PHILIPS,
BY MESSRS. HODSON AND JOHNSON, ON THE NEW CANAL.
MDCCLXXIV.

BRITISH MUSEUM

A VIEW OF THE TRUTHS OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST.

QUESTION I.

WHO made you?

ANSWER.

Me did the Lord Almighty frame,
(The great Jehovah is his name)
My body form'd, in breath'd my soul,
Fashion'd each part, preserves the whole. } Gen. ii. 7.

QUESTION II.

What is God?

ANSWER.

A spirit perfect, infinite,
In knowledge, goodness, and in might; } John iv. 24. Exod. iii 14.
Unseen, eternal, uncreate,
Pure, changeless, self-existent, great. } Exod. xxxiv. 6.

QUESTION III.

What is man?

ANSWER.

Daily and sad experience shews,
That all mankind to God are foes,
Brutish and dev'lish, void of good, } Gen. vi. 5, 12.
Like wax to Satan, stone to God. } Ezek. xxxvi.

QUESTION IV.

Did the alwise God make man in this condition?

ANSWER.

Upright the Lord did man create;
He brought himself to this estate;
'Twas thro' his own default he fell
To sin, and (in desert) to hell. } Eccles. vii. 29.

QUESTION V.

When was man made?

ANSWER.

When time began, th' Almighty made
This earthly globe, the ſkies he ſpread,
Form'd all therein, and then began
On the ſixth day to faſhion man. { Gen. i.

QUESTION VI.

Whence did you acquire this knowledge of God and his works?

ANSWER.

By nature's glimm'ring light we ſee
Some ſhadow of a Deity;
But only from the ſacred word,
We've ſaving knowledge of the Lord. { Acts xiv. 17. Rom. ii. 14, 15. Acts xvii. 27. 2 Tim. iii. 15, 16.

QUESTION VII.

How doth the Bible appear to be the word of God?

ANSWER.

From various future things reveal'd
In prophecy, and ſince fulfill'd;
From various ſupernat'ral ſigns,
Its writers wrought by pow'r divine. { More ſure word of prophecy. Acts v. 12.

QUESTION VIII.

How farther?

ANSWER.

Its writers characters declare
They neither cheats nor cheated were;
But hence the ſtrongeſt proof I have,
I find it fit my ſoul to ſave. { Ye are witneſſes of God. 2 Tim. iii. 15.

QUESTION IX.

How does it appear ſuited to ſave your ſouls?

ANSWER.

It is from hence I knowledge draw,
Of man, of God, his righteous law,
His boundleſs love, his wond'rous grace,
To Adam's fallen, ruin'd race. { Pſal 119. per tot.

QUESTION X.

What doth the ſcripture teach more concerning man?

ANSWER.

Dwelling in Eden, from his ſide,
Jehovah faſhion'd him a bride;
Great was their bliſs; but ah! how ſoon
To midnight darkneſs turn'd their noon! { Gen. ii. 3.

QUESTION XI.

Can you give me a particular account of the fall?

ANSWER.

One fatal tree forbid to eat,
With all the world beſide for meat,
With all the world unſatisfy'd,
Vain man would ſnatch what God deny'd. { Gen. iii.

QUESTION

QUESTION XII.

Who ſeduced them to eat the forbidden fruit?

ANSWER.

Curſt Satan in the ſerpent hid, } Gen. iii.
Mov'd Eve to eat what God forbid;
She to her huſband gave the fruit,
Of all our miſeries the root.

QUESTION XIII.

Who was Satan?

ANSWER.

Satan was once an angel bright, } 2 Pet. ii. 4.
A chief amidſt thoſe ſons of light; } God ſpared not
But by his pride from heav'n he fell, } the angels.
With all his rebel hoſts to hell.

QUESTION XIV.

What was the conſequence of the fall?

ANSWER.

Man now became a foe to God, } Jer. ii.
An enemy to all that's good; } Gen. iii.
Was turn'd from Eden, and debas'd, } Iſai. i. 3.
With all his ſons, below the beaſt. } Pſal. xlix. 20.

QUESTION XV.

What doth the ſcripture farther teach concerning God?

ANSWER.

Three Perſons in the Godhead are, } 1 John v. 7.
Who do in heav'n their witneſs bear; } See Dr. Calamy,
The Father, Spirit, and the Son, } Mr. Sloſs,
Co-equal, co-eternal, one. } Mr. Martin.

QUESTION XVI.

Wherefore did God permit the fall?

ANSWER.

For wiſe deſigns the Lord ſaw fit, } O! the depth of
The fall of Adam to permit; } the wiſdom of
His fav'rite people thus to ſhew, } God!
Much greater bliſs than Adam knew.

QUESTION XVII.

Who are the people of God?

ANSWER.

Thoſe whom Jehovah's firm decree } Eph. i. 4, 5.
Elected from eternity,
Immutably and firmly choſe, } Art. 17.
Ordain'd to life in ſpite of foes.

QUESTION XVIII.

What becomes of the reſt of mankind?

ANSWER.

Paſt by they ſink in ſin and woe, } Rom. ix 22.
Condemn'd, and that with juſtice too; } Prov. xvi. 4.
Condemn'd for wilful ſin foreknown, } Jud. iv.
That God might juſt and pure be ſhown.

QUESTION XIX.

How do God's decrees consist with the freedom of his creatures wills?

ANSWER.

All good's from God; if God decree
Some good, he'll cause that good to be;
He works on man most sure, but still
Preserves the freedom of his will.

} It is God worketh in you to will.

QUESTION XX.

Proceed.

ANSWER.

If for wise ends he ill ordains,
The creature's will still free remains,
The evil comes most certain, yet
God don't effect it, but permit.

} 1 King xxii. 22.
Jam. i. 12.
Acts xiv. 16.
xvii. 30.
Rom. ix. 22.

QUESTION XXI.

How farther did God's good-will go forth towards the elect in eternity?

ANSWER.

Eternally he did resolve
From sin foreseen th' elect t' absolve;
On them to look as just and free,
And well-lov'd sons he did decree.

} Numb. xxiii 21.
Prov. viii. 31.
Acts xv. 18.
Rom. iii. 25.

QUESTION XXII.

How could God look on the elect as righteous, when he foreknew the fall?

ANSWER.

He put them into Christ their head,
Whom he ordain'd for them to bleed,
And by his blood for them work out,
A righteousness without a spot.

} Eph. i. 3, 4.
2 Cor. v. 19.
Rev. xiii. 8.

QUESTION XXIII.

Christ being co-equal with the Father, was not his consent necessary?

ANSWER.

He freely undertook it all,
T' repair the ruins of the fall;
Resolv'd to die and shed his blood,
To reconcile lost man to God.

} John x. 18.

QUESTION XXIV.

Christ being God, how could he die? Also what right had he to die for another?

ANSWER.

He purpos'd human flesh to take,
And so himself our kinsman make;
And having right t' redeem us then,
Resolv'd t'obey, and bleed for men.

} Heb. x. 5.
Lev. xxv. 25.
Ruth
Heb. ii. 14.

QUESTION

QUESTION XXV.

How can we be juſtified by the righteouſneſs of another?

ANSWER.

Our ſins to Chriſt imputed are, — 2 Cor. v. 21.
His righteouſneſs divinely fair, — Rom. iv. 6.
Is ours by imputation made; — Sol. iv. 7.
Thus are we ſpotleſs in our head. — Ezek. xvi. 14.

QUESTION XXVI.

How can this be from everlaſting?

ANSWER.

Surely the Father knew the Son, — Zech. ix. 11.
His great co-equal, with him one; — Heb. xiii. 20.
Could give him truſt who cannot lie, — Rev. xiii. 8.
And had in cov'nant ſworn to die. — Pſa. lxxxix. 28. Zech. vi. 13.

QUESTION XXVII.

When did Chriſt fulfil his covenant engagement?

ANSWER.

He in th' appointed time came down, — 30 for 33.
Near eighteen hundred years agon;
Liv'd thirty years on earth, and then,
By blood atonement made for men.

QUESTION XXVIII.

Where was the birth-place of Chriſt?

ANSWER.

At Beth'lem ſee the God appear, — Mat. ii.
Born of his virgin mother there; — Luke ii.
Heav'n in amaze came down to ſee
Omnipotence in infancy.

QUESTION XXIX.

What was his manner of life while upon earth?

ANSWER.

A life of poverty he led, — Mat. Mark Luke John
And all the law for us obey'd;
He travel'd all Judea thro',
Healing men's ſouls and bodies too.

QUESTION XXX.

In what manner did he die?

ANSWER.

Betray'd by Judas to the Jews, — John xix. 1.
Their God and Saviour they abuſe;
Drag'd to the Romans to be try'd,
Scourg'd, ſpit on, mock'd and crucify'd.

QUESTION XXXI.

Did he not bear his Father's wrath, as well as the cruelties of men?

ANSWER.

Tho' great the pains from man he bore, — Zech. xiii. 7. 1 Pet. iii. 18.
His father's vengeance pain'd him more;
Infinite juſtice made him groan,
For ſins unnumber'd, not his own.

QUESTION

QUESTION XXXII.

Did his body continue in the grave?

ANSWER.

In Joseph's sepulchre it lay
Three days unanimated clay;
Then victor over death and hell,
The Saviour rose in heav'n to dwell. } Luke xxiv.

QUESTION XXXIII.

What ensued on his resurrection?

ANSWER.

E're he ascended to his throne,
He made his resurrection known
To his apostles, in whose sight
He mounted to the realms of light. } John xx. 19. Luke xxiv. 24. Acts i. 9.

QUESTION XXXIV.

What is the employment of Christ, God-man, in heaven?

ANSWER.

At God's right hand he intercedes,
And for his chosen people pleads;
And down from heav'n the Spirit sends,
To teach and dwell with all his friends. } Heb. vii. 25. John xiv. 26.

QUESTION XXXV.

What is the office of the Spirit?

ANSWER.

Christ did for all his chosen bleed,
Whereby from punishment they're freed;
By him to heav'n they have a right,
For which the Spirit makes them meet. } Col. i. 12.

QUESTION XXXVI.

How doth the Spirit make the Saints meet for glory?

ANSWER.

'Tis by his pow'r they're born anew,
Are chang'd and cleansed thro' and thro;
Grace he implants, doth grace increase,
And gives them holiness and peace. } John iii. 8. Tit. iii. 5. Rom. xv. 16.

QUESTION XXXVII.

What is regeneration?

ANSWER.

The Spirit's work, whereby the soul
Is well renew'd throughout the whole;
Each part and passion moulded fresh,
In holiness and righteousness. } John iii. 7. Tit. iii. 5. Eph. iv. 24.

QUESTION XXXVIII.

What is repentance?

ANSWER.

Soon as it's born the babe will cry,
So souls regenerated sigh;
Their anger, hate, and grief is bent
Against their sins – this is t'repent. } Behold he prayeth. 2 Cor. vii. 11.

QUESTION

QUESTION XXXIX.

What is faith?

ANSWER.

A grace, whereby the ſoul doth ſee
Chriſt's fulneſs, and its poverty;
Tells him its wants, before him falls,
And truſts in his free grace for all.

Acts xvi. 31.

QUESTION XL.

Is union a conſequence of faith?

ANSWER.

A ſecret union to the Son
Subſiſted, e're the world begun;
Therefore, the choſen faith receive,
That in communion they may live.

Choſen IN Him. Jer. xxxi 3. Gal. iv. 6.

QUESTION XLI.

What is communion?

ANSWER.

When we receive by faith God's gift,
Diſcov'ries of his love, and lift
Our glowing hearts to him above,
Loving and joying in his love.

I have loved thee Rejoice in the Lord.

QUESTION XLII.

What is aſſurance?

ANSWER.

Aſſurance is to have made known,
Our being with Chriſt Jeſus one;
To have the Spirit certify,
Our being ſons of God moſt high.

Rom. viii. 16. Heb. x. 22.

QUESTION XLIII.

What is ſanctification?

ANSWER.

Thereby our ſouls to grow are made,
More and more like, to Chriſt our head;
Their faith is ſtrengthen'd, pride abas'd,
Luſt is ſubdu'd, and grace increas'd.

Are changed into the ſame image.

QUESTION XLIV.

Is ſanctification compleated before death?

ANSWER.

Ah, no! alas we daily find,
Failings and fears of divers kind:
Satan's temptations, and what's more,
Indwelling luſts diſtreſs us ſore.

Rom. vii. The fleſh luſteth

QUESTION XLV.

Have all believers aſſurance?

ANSWER.

Moſt, if not all, in ſome degree,
At certain times aſſured be;
But for wiſe ends Jehovah may
Leave ſome in darkneſs long to ſtay.

This honour have all his ſaints. Walketh in darkneſs.

QUESTION

QUESTION XLVI.

Are they subject to afflictions?

ANSWER.

They daily meet ten thousand foes,
Sanctification to oppose;
Oft are in danger and distress,
To try and exercise their grace.

Lam. iii. 1.
Dan. xi. 35.
2 Chron. xxxii. 31.

QUESTION XLVII.

Shall they persevere to the end?

ANSWER.

Sure as th' existence of a God,
Sure as the Saviour shed his blood;
God's oath and promise shall not fail,
But o'er all foes th' elect prevail.

2 Tim. ii. 19.
Phil. i. 6.
Heb. vi. 17, 18.
Heb. xiii. 5.
Rom. viii. 38.

QUESTION XLVIII.

Shall all things work for their good?

ANSWER.

Yes—each affliction, each distress,
They meet with in this wilderness;
Shall, thro' the mighty pow'r of God,
Work in the end his children's good.

All things shall work together for good to them that love God, and are called according to his promise.

QUESTION XLIX.

May not carnal persons abuse such doctrines?

ANSWER.

If dogs will snatch the children's bread,
Children must ne'ertheless be fed;
But let presumptuous sinners know,
'Tis at their peril they do so.

Isa. lxvi. 11.—14.
Rom. iii 8.
Rev. xxii 15.
Jud. 4.

QUESTION L.

Are they bound to keep the law?

ANSWER.

Not as a covenant, for none
Can live by deeds that they have done;
But as a rule of life to prove,
That they the Lord Almighty love.

Curs'd is the man that continueth not.
Under the law to Christ.

QUESTION LI.

Will God punish them if they break it?

ANSWER.

God loves his dear elect so well,
In him no wrath tow'rds them can dwell;
But when they sin for their own sake,
He'll cause their wand'ring hearts to ach.

Fury is not in me.
I will visit their iniquities with stripes.

QUESTION LII.

May not all be saved that will?

ANSWER.

All may be sav'd that will: but none
Can will, but by God's help alone;
Whoever feels desires of grace,
Must give God's Spirit all the praise.

Whoso will, let him come.
God worketh in you to will.

QUESTION

QUESTION LIII.

Should we ſeek the Spirit's aſſiſtance by prayer?

ANSWER.

The Lord knows all things, and doth ſee
Our wants: yet he hath made it be
Our duty to enquire by pray'r,
For help when in diſtreſs we are.

For all theſe things I will be enquired of ſaith the Lord.

QUESTION LIV.

How many ſacraments are there?

ANSWER.

Two——in the which are chriſtians bound,
By love and duty to be found;
But none devoid of ſaving faith,
A right to either of them hath.

Mat. xxviii. 19. Go teach all nations.
Act. viii. 37.

QUESTION LV.

[*What is baptiſm?**

ANSWER.

Plunging in water, which muſt be
In name of the eternal three;
Whereby ſhould all believers ſhow,
Their love and new obedience vow.]

Mat. viii. 19. Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Mat. iii. 13, &c.

QUESTION LVI.

What is the Lord's ſupper?

ANSWER.

The eating bread and drinking wine,
In mem'ry of our Lord divine;
Who broke his body, ſhed his blood,
To feed our ſouls with living food.

1 Cor. xi. 26. As oft as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup.
Mat. xxvi. 26.

QUESTION LVII.

Whither does the ſoul go to at death?

ANSWER.

The ſaints aſcend where angels dwell,
And bid to ſin and pain farewell:
But ſinners down to hell deſcend,
To live in torment without end.

Luke xvi. 22. Was carried into Abraham's boſom.
The wicked ſhall be turned into hell.
Pſal. ix. 17.

QUESTION LVIII.

Shall the bodies of the dead riſe again?

ANSWER.

Yes, at the reſurrection-day,
The Lord ſhall call---the dead obey:
Sinners and ſaints ſhall then appear,
And take their trial at his bar.

John v. 28. All that are in their graves ſhall hear his voice.

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* This anſwer is deſigned for the uſe of thoſe children whoſe parents are of the Baptiſt denomination.

QUESTION LIX.

What shall be the consequence to the godly?

ANSWER.

Acquitted thro' their Saviour's blood,
Declar'd the sons and heirs of God;
With him they reascend the skies,
To dwell where pleasure never dies.

Mat. xxv. 34. Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom.

QUESTION LX.

What shall be the consequence to the wicked?

ANSWER.

Christless and hopeless they shall stand,
Speechless with guilt at Christ's left hand;
Who thence shall drive them down to hell,
In fire unquenchable to dwell.

Mat. xxv. 41. Then shall the judge say to them on his left, depart ye cursed

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HYMN.

ADVICE TO YOUTH:

Or, OLD AGE *and* DEATH *in an Unconverted State.*

ECCLES. xii. 1, 7. Isa. lxv. 20.

I.

NOW in the heat of youthful blood,
Remember your Creator, GOD:
Behold, the months come hast'ning on,
When you shall say, *My joys are gone.*

II.

Behold, the aged sinner goes,
Laden with guilt and heavy woes,
Down to the regions of the dead,
With endless curses on his head.

III.

The dust returns to dust again;
The soul in agonies of pain
Ascends to God; not there to dwell,
But hears her doom, and sinks to hell.

IV.

Eternal King! I fear thy name;
Teach me to know how frail I am;
And when my soul must hence remove,
Give me a mansion in thy love.

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